Exhibit 9

1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3	
4	BLACK LOVE RESISTS IN THE RUST, et al.,
5	individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated,
6	Plaintiffs,
7	-vs- 1:18-cv-00719-CCR
8	CITY OF BUFFALO, N.Y., et al.,
9	Defendants.
10	DEPOSITION OF DANIEL DERENDA
11	Taken pursuant to Rule 30(b)(6)
12	of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
13	APPEARING REMOTELY FROM
14	BUFFALO, NEW YORK
15	
16	(ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY PAGES 138 - 142)
17	
18	January 23rd, 2024
19	At 9:30 a.m.
20	Pursuant to notice
21	
22	REPORTED BY:
23	Rebecca L. DiBello, RPR, CSR(NY)

- Q. Now, traffic safety was not listed as one of the four missions of the Strike Force on the mission statement, correct?
 - A. It's not listed on this mission statement.
 - Q. Okay. Now, let's turn to the activities the Strike Force engaged in while it was in existence. Once established the Strike Force was designed to target patrol areas, correct? MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection to form. Can you restate?
 - Q. Once established the Strike Force had assigned patrol areas, correct?
 - A. They had assigned areas, correct.
- Q. Areas that were referred to as patrols?

 MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.
- 16 A. I'm not understanding.

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- Q. Did you call the areas that the Strike Force was assigned to patrol locations or patrol areas?
- A. Areas. Like they were by number.
- Q. Okay. And the majority of the patrol areas were on the East Side?
- 23 A. I believe it broke down the city by different

areas by number.

- Q. As far as the actual locations where the Strike Force was dispatched, was that predominantly on the East Side?
- A. The Strike Force was dispatched based on crime trends and things going on in the area, different areas.
- Q. There is data available about where those locations tended to be, correct?
- A. There was data gathered where those locations-- yeah. There would be based on their reports, yes.
- Q. Okay. And you were often involved in the decision as to where the Strike Force would be dispatched, correct?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Object to the form.

- A. I was, Lockwood was, the chiefs were, sometimes the captains, maybe Serafini of the Strike Force or the other captain. I don't recall his name. And sometimes the lieutenants picked the locations based on information.
- Q. And that is to say that the commissioner

- participated in the selection of the Strike
 Force's patrol locations, correct?
 - A. I believe I did, yes.
 - Q. As did the deputy police commissioner, correct?
 - A. Lockwood, correct.

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- Q. As did captains who were involved in the Strike Force, correct?
- A. I believe at times they may have, correct.
- Q. And as well as lieutenants involved in the Strike Force, correct?
- A. I think that was limited, but I believe it could have taken place.
 - Q. Okay. And to the extent it took place, it was with the authorization of the BPD chain of command?
- 17 A. Correct.
 - Q. Okay. Now, what criteria was used in selecting the Strike Force patrol locations?
 - A. Locations based on current issues going on.

 We discussed with chiefs. We looked at crime stats, crime hot spots and they dispatched based on what was going on at that time,

trends at the time they were assigned to different areas.

- Q. Okay. Was crime data related to the location of motor vehicle accidents considered?
- A. For the Strike Force?
- Q. Correct.
- A. No.

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- Q. Was trend data related to the incidence of motorists driving without licenses or registrations considered?
- 11 A. For the location of the Strike Force, no.
 - Q. Yes. Was there any consideration of traffic safety data related to the location of Strike Force patrols?
 - MR. SAHASRABUDHE: We're talking about patrol locations, correct?
- 17 Q. Correct.
- 18 A. No.
 - Q. Okay. Now, in the instances where you were not responsible as commissioner for selecting patrol locations you were made aware of them, correct?
- 23 MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. I would be copied on a daily Strike Force report so, yes, I would review those reports periodically, so I would have been made aware of.
- Q. Okay. And if you had concerns or objections to the patrol locations you could have voiced those concerns, correct?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection to form.

A. Yes.

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- Q. Did you ever?
- A. I don't recall.
- Q. And there were others in the BPD who received

 Strike Force daily reports, correct?
- 14 A. It would be -- yes, that's correct.
 - Q. Who were those individuals by job title?
 - A. I don't remember the total who would be on it, but it would be district chiefs at the time.

 The deputy commissioners would receive it. I would receive it. Strike Force lieutenants would receive it. Captains, all chiefs. That would probably be the chain. I don't recall exactly who would be on that chain.
 - Q. Okay.

- A. I didn't educate myself on that prior to.
- Q. But in any event, members of BPD's leadership including the commissioner received the daily reports?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. What was the function of the Strike Force daily reports?
- A. Of the daily reports?
- Q. Yes.
- 10 A. To know what was being done. My philosophy is
 11 what gets measured gets done.
 - Q. So as commissioner you were briefed on a daily basis about the Strike Force's activities in the City of Buffalo, correct?
 - A. I was sent a daily report. Whether I read it daily or not, sometimes, sometimes not.
 - Q. Okay. But you were nonetheless given notice about the activities the Strike Force was engaged in in the City of Buffalo?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. I was sent the daily report.
- Q. Okay. And that was a practice that was instituted during your time as commissioner of

gun violence, correct?

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MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form. You may answer.

- A. The Strike Force operated checkpoints at my request as part of their patrol duties as often as possible each and every day. I would like them to have done a checkpoint each and every day for the purpose of traffic safety with the secondary purpose of high visibility. That was part of what I expected from them every day.
- Q. So during your time as BPD commissioner you expected the Strike Force to be operating checkpoints each and every day, correct?
- A. Or sometimes they couldn't due to manpower constraints or other issues going on, but generally speaking I would have liked to have at least one checkpoint done a day.
- Q. Subject to manpower consideration, correct?
 - A. Yes, and other considerations.
 - Q. And that was an expectation you communicated to Strike Force members, correct?
- 23 A. To Strike Force supervisors. It would be the

this grant which the officers would have performed.

-DANIEL DERENDA -

Q. Thank you.

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Now, moving on, when the Strike Force operated checkpoints they received assistance at times from the Housing Unit, correct?

- A. Correct.
- Q. The Strike Force and Housing Unit also engaged in traffic enforcement outside of checkpoints, correct?
- A. It would be part of their duties on patrol to enforce traffic, correct.
 - Q. So they engaged in these activities with your knowledge and permission?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Including on the East Side?
 - A. Including all parts of the City of Buffalo.
- 18 O. And that includes the East Side?
- 19 A. Correct.
 - Q. Now, as BPD commissioner you participated in the decision to deploy the Strike Force for use in traffic enforcement, correct?
- MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

permission as Strike Force to do so when I was commissioner.

Q. You mean as Housing Unit?

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- A. Housing and Strike Force. I just don't recall personally them doing them.
- Q. Okay. Since you have been educated about this topic and since it squarely falls under Topic 2, how frequently did the Housing Unit conduct its own checkpoints?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. I don't have that information.
- Q. Do you know whether the Housing Unit checkpoints differed from Strike Force checkpoints in any way?
- A. Any checkpoints done by whether Housing or Strike Force had to follow the Manual of Procedure and the roadblock checkpoint directive.
- Q. So there were no differences that you're aware of between the way Housing Unit checkpoints were supposed to function and Strike Force checkpoints?
- A. It should have functioned or followed -- the

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BY MS. EZIE:

3 Q. Mr. Derenda, are you aware of any instances 4 where the Housing Unit issued checkpoint 5 directives when operating checkpoints without the Strike Force?

> Objection to form. MR. SAHASRABUDHE:

- I am not aware if they issued directives. am telling you it was part of what they should have done. I don't even know if these records would exist today or where they would be kept but, again, if they did a checkpoint they were under the same orders as anyone else who would have done a checkpoint under the Manual of Procedure and the directives they should have. I can't tell you if they did.
- Q. Why did the Manual of Procedures require that checkpoint directives be issued in connection with checkpoints?
- A. Because the directive states everything they should and shouldn't do and I believe the directive again about traffic safety, about the time and place and setting up for --

again, I don't have the directive in front of me, but it lays out what the officers should do to make everybody safe and to do what I believe constitutionally.

- Q. To confirm, however, you are not aware of whether the Housing Unit complied with this requirement, correct?
- A. I am not aware. I am telling you that they should have.
- Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Derenda, there are special rules that apply to towing cars on private property, correct?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. The same thing with issuing parking tags on private property?
- 16 A. That would be correct.
- Q. And technically speaking, BMHA parking lots are private property, correct?
 - MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.
 - A. It would be BMHA property which is a government entity.
- Q. But it's not a public roadway, correct?

 MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

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-DANIEL DERENDA

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Form.

- A. When it was necessary when it should be done, yes.
- Q. While operating checkpoints, correct?
- A. While operating checkpoints they should enforce all the V&T rules, all laws and it should be done on every vehicle that comes through so everybody is treated equally.
- Q. Okay. So conducting impounds was part of the expected role of officers operating at Strike Force checkpoints?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection to form.

- A. It wasn't expected, but if they impound the vehicle it would be part of what they did for various reasons through the checkpoint.
- Q. It's something that you tracked as far as data is concerned?
- A. I believe they might have put down the number of impounds on the report. I don't recall exactly, but they would track all the numbers whether it was traffic summonses, number of misdemeanor arrests, felony arrests, guns recovered. There might have been impounds on

there, but I don't recall that.

- Q. And it was your policy to have the Strike

 Force track those type of statistics, correct?
- A. It was my policy to have them track basically all statistics. As I said, what gets measured gets done.

I know when Strike Force is out there and they're a proactive policing unit, they are not tied to the radio, to tell me that they're out there for eight hours or ten hours a shift and there's five cars and two-man cars that they should be doing something.

There should be numbers of tickets
because if you drive around you can always see
traffic infractions. There's always something
and they're a proactive unit and they were
instructed to be proactive and be out there
enforcing the law, zero tolerance.

- Q. And whose policy was the zero tolerance policy?
- A. It was basically my policy, but it was always the mayor's crime plan, zero tolerance crime policy. It was basically my plan put together

-DANIEL DERENDA

and that we'd be very proactive with the goal of reducing crime throughout the city and making the city safer.

Q. Why did you and the mayor adopt a zero tolerance crime policy?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. The zero crime policy in my opinion during my time as deputy commissioner and commissioner of police resulted in a 40 percent drop in part one crimes throughout the City of Buffalo, 40 percent down overall. That's why we adopted that policy and our policy seems to have worked.
- Q. And when you say part one crimes what are you referring to?
- A. Part one crimes is tracked by the FBI.

 Everything from violent crimes, robbery,

 rapes, homicides. Then you have assaults and
 then you have larcenies, unauthorized use of a

 motor vehicle, burglary and I'm missing one

 more in there somewhere, but they track those
 numbers.

It's listed under part one crimes and

- Q. Okay. The Housing Unit also submitted detail reports of sorts to you, correct?
- A. Correct.

- Q. And it was your practice to review the submissions of the Housing Unit and Strike Force?
- A. I would periodically review the daily reports.

 I didn't read every report that came to me.

 They were all sent to me whether they were
 from district details, Strike Force, Housing.

 I got the reports daily. I read some. I
 didn't read others.
- Q. Why did you read them from time to time?
- A. Just to keep track to make sure things were being done. Again, going back to my statement, what gets measured gets done, so I look at an example of a detail report and we have a chief's meeting and I say, okay, you ran a detail for five days and there wasn't one thing done. You ran a detail for eight hours a day on the 198 and there was not one speeding ticket written.

Well, you can drive down the 198 today

and every car you see is going over 30 miles an hour. So if they were out there eight hours and they wrote no tickets they weren't trying very hard and I would address situations like that with the chief.

- Q. And so it was your practice to give feedback on the production of the Strike Force and Housing Unit?
- A. Correct.

- Q. And it was your practice to complain if production was ever too low, correct?

 MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

 Go ahead.
- A. I would want to know -- there would be reasons at times why they weren't -- maybe they didn't have the manpower. Maybe they were doing something different than their normal duties so, again, we keep track and make sure people were doing what they were being paid to do.
- Q. But you would notify the command if you thought the numbers were not good, correct?
- A. I'm positive I did that on probably more than one occasion.

-DANIEL DERENDA

Q. And the expectations that officers generate numbers was -- so you communicated the expectation that officers generate numbers when they're working on Strike Force details, correct?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Form.

A. My expectations were they were out there working. Again, it isn't all about numbers.

It's about people being active and doing their jobs. I worked on patrol for ten years. I probably made over 200 arrests, 300 arrests a year with my partner.

We were out there. We were active and basically if you're getting paid to be out there, you're not tied to answering radio calls, I expected you to be proactive because that's what the unit was formed for, to be proactive to get out there be visible proactive and do your job so, again, at times numbers were low and they had a reason for it, but working patrol for ten years I know that there's violations all around you and if you were proactive you'd be doing your job.

-DANIEL DERENDA

Q. And you instructed officers to impound as many vehicles as legally possible, correct?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. I probably did. Probably on more than one occasion and that's actually --
- Q. Why would that be your policy as commissioner?
- A. Again, if you have illegal vehicles out unregistered, uninsured, whatever reason, they're a danger to the public and they shouldn't be on the road and they should be removed until they're within the guidelines of New York State.

That's my opinion. If you have somebody driving with no insurance and they hit your car and they take off, there's nobody legally responsible. If the car had switched plates or whatever reason to impound a vehicle if it wasn't supposed to be on the street I encouraged them to remove it.

- Q. But isn't it true that BPD impounded cars so they could also search for weapons and guns?

 MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.
- A. At times they could impound cars, but if

proceed on all of the above.

- Q. Would you expect that BPD chiefs would be aware of those legal requirements?
- A. Yes, I do. I would expect they would be.
- Q. Does it concern you that chiefs gave instructions to officers contrary to those legal requirements?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection to form.

- A. I'd have to see when it happened. Again, I don't kn,ow. I don't know what you're talking about so I really can't answer on that.
- Q. Okay. You also during your time as commissioner instructed BPD officers engaged in traffic enforcement to make arrests and write traffic summonses as much as possible, correct?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

A. Actually, that's on the directive to write as many tickets and violations as you see. We'll go back to the checkpoints for a minute.

They're supposed to tag every violation that they see and make every arrest for every violation of the criminal, or whatever.

Again, you can't -- you see one person not wearing a seatbelt, he should get a tag just like every other person coming through that checkpoint.

I encouraged them to be proactive, especially on the checkpoint situation that they weren't given a choice but to write as many tickets as possible based on what they see and to treat everybody the same.

- Q. Is that departmental policy?
- A. That was on a checkpoint directive to tag
 every violation they see was because I don't
 want motorist A to be treated any different
 than motorist B, so I wrote one ticket for
 motorist A when he had four violations, but on
 motorist B I wrote five violation tickets, but
 not the same.

I wanted everybody treated the same, tagged for every violation that came through.

- Q. So your testimony is that you wanted all motorists in the City of Buffalo to be treated the same with respect to traffic enforcement?
- A. Correct.

-DANIEL DERENDA

Again, I don't recall ever looking at numbers saying we did too many here, we did too many there. Again, they were assigned spread out, but at times, as I said, they were put in areas where the Strike Force was assigned.

Q. So with respect to the checkpoint program, you did not during your time as commissioner adopt a policy treating all motorists in the City of Buffalo the same as pertains to checkpoint locations, correct?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

A. So we treated everybody who came through a checkpoint the same. That was the directive. Everybody should have been tagged for every violation coming through. We took away the officer's direction. Traffic stops issuing tickets is an officer's discretion what they write tickets for.

When they came through the checkpoints on the directive it makes it clear that they don't have that discretion. They were to tag everybody for every violation that came

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- Q. But you did not adopt a policy of ensuring that checkpoints were distributed evenly across districts in the city, correct?
- A. Checkpoints, no, I did not. Checkpoints primarily were with Strike Force and Housing and, as I said, many times for the sake of convenience they were done in the areas that they were assigned.
- Q. Am I correct that the Strike Force had city-wide jurisdiction?
- A. They did.
- Q. Am I correct that the Housing Unit has city-wide jurisdiction?
 - A. They did.
 - Q. But you did not instruct the Strike Force or
 Housing Unit to ensure that checkpoints took
 place in all neighborhoods across the City of
 Buffalo, correct?
 - MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.
 - A. Checkpoints were part of the daily duties of the Strike Force. No, I did not tell them to go to every different part. Again, they were

the other captain. I think Roberts was a captain there before him and then it would be by the lieutenants and, again, they would pick locations when it got down to their level for convenience sake.

- Q. Now, as I believe you alluded to earlier today, there is a Manual of Procedure within the BPD concerning the operation of checkpoints, correct?
- A. Correct. There is a section, correct.
- Q. In Section 10.5 of the MOP?
- 12 A. Something like that, correct.
- Q. And that MOP -- the checkpoint MOP is supposed to apply to each and every checkpoint that the Buffalo Police Department performs, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Regardless of the unit that's performing them?
- 18 A. Yes.

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- Q. And so this MOP applied to checkpoints operated by the Strike Force, correct?
- 21 A. Strike Force and whoever.
- Q. As well as checkpoints operated by the Housing
 Unit?

- A. Yes, and they would be under the directive which is I believe stated in the main.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to introduce I believe we're up to Exhibit 16, a document that I understand to be the MOP in question.

It is a five-page document as excerpted. What we've done is we have a table of contents and then the policy that appears at Section 10.5, traffic checkpoints.

I'm going to forward to that page and do you see at the bottom of page 4 is -- sorry.

This page is what's entitled 10.5, traffic checkpoints?

- A. I do.
- Q. Okay. And it continues onto the next page and it has subparts A through M. Do you see that?
- 17 A. Yes.

- Q. And there is a revision date on this policy of August 14th, 2013. Do you see that?
 - A. I do.
- Q. Is this the Manual of Procedure concerning checkpoints that was in place within the BPD during the time you were commissioner I guess

and secondary high visibility.

I wanted them to be out there doing checkpoints daily. That was my directive.

It's what I wanted. They didn't always do them daily and there were reasons for it.

Usually manpower shortages, but that was an expectation I put on them to do them daily.

They didn't always like doing them, but that's what I wanted.

- Q. Of all of the units of the BPD why did you select those two units to be responsible for operating daily checkpoints?
- A. They were proactive units that were out and had no ties to the radio. In the districts you couldn't really have a detail car setup a checkpoint. An officer or two officers couldn't have setup a checkpoint.

They were a proactive unit. Both of them were proactive units not tied to the radio that had the time and ability to do the checkpoints. That was part of their daily duties and part of what I expected.

Q. Is your testimony that the Housing Unit and

-DANIEL DERENDA

Strike Force were the only units within the entire BPD that were not tied to the radio?

A. Traffic was not tied to the radio, but they had other things they would do such as hockey games down at the arena or other events or whatever details they had going.

At times they may have requested checkpoints, but mostly they did details at different events and races and tons of things that happened in the city.

No other unit, patrol unit. The only other patrol units other than traffic, and they're not even a patrol unit per se, and they did more traffic blocking and all that, Strike Force, Housing and then you had details and yes, they could have done them in details if they had enough people to do them and they had a reason to do them, but Strike Force and Housing were proactive units with no ties to the radio, with city-wide jurisdiction and part of what I wanted them to do -- what I wanted them to do was a checkpoint each and every day when possible.

missing some directives or some boxes, I don't know. Again, I can't answer that question.

I do know data was given to the Council.

I don't know if it was complete, but I know
data was turned over to the Council and I
don't know the timeframe of when it was turned
over, but I was told it was turned over by the
law department.

- Q. Now, we talked earlier about checkpoint directives. The checkpoint directives in a -we also talked about Strike Force daily reports. Do you recall that?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. And we talked about the ways that things like arrests were tracked on the Strike Force's daily reporting?
- 17 A. Yes.
- Q. What other information was tracked on the daily reports?
 - A. Again, I don't have a total recall. I have not reviewed a daily report, but it would be traffic summonses, arrests, impounds, guns, maybe even cash seized. I don't have a total

-DANIEL DERENDA

recollection of what was on the report and then just maybe a summary of their activity, anything special to note.

- Q. Okay. Now, the daily Strike Force report that the -- the daily statistics that the Strike Force maintained in 2013 through 2016, they did not list out the types of summonses that were issued by the Department, correct?
- A. I don't recall them breaking it down by summonses. I don't recall. I know they issued a number of summonses. I don't know if they went into individuals from the licenses, whatever, stop signs.

I don't think they went into that detail. I think they just listed the number of summonses issued that day on the individual reports and the daily reports were added up to the monthly reports and the monthly reports were added up to the yearly or annual report.

Q. If the purpose of the checkpoint was traffic safety why didn't the BPD record the type of summonses that were being issued?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

A. As I said, when I wrote this I believe that was one of the things I was told to put in it or should put in it. I don't recall exactly who told me, but it's what -- the policy we put in place was the directive. It should have been followed.

As I said, I had no reason to believe it wasn't being followed, but it should have been if it was.

- Q. Okay. Now, do you see on bullet four it says conduct a traffic stop on any vehicle that attempts to avoid the roadblock?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Were officers instructed on what constitutes attempting to avoid a roadblock?
- MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.
- 17 A. I don't know.
 - Q. So in your time as commissioner did you issue any such quidance?
 - A. I don't recall.
 - Q. Now, when people were -- when people were -- when checkpoints were established they were not targeting exclusively those motorists

suspected of violating vehicle and traffic laws, correct?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. A checkpoint is not targeting anyone. A checkpoint -- people are going through the checkpoint and officers are observing whether they have a valid registration, inspection sticker, so on and so forth and if they're wearing seat belts as the directive states. If they're not they should be tagged for each and every one of those violations.
- Q. So prior to entering the checkpoint BPD officers didn't have reasonable suspicion to believe any given motorist was violating the law, correct?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. They could have. If they're pulling up to the checkpoint, all of a sudden backing up and starting to flee, then they would have reason for, in my opinion, pulling them over.
- Q. Okay.

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A. And asking them the question stated in the directive.

-DANIEL DERENDA

- Q. But the checkpoints were not administered in a manner where motorists who are not suspected of Vehicle and Traffic Law violations could bypass the checkpoints entirely, correct?
- A. Correct. Everybody has to come through the checkpoint when you're in that motion and, again, there's nobody suspected of anything. They're coming through a checkpoint and they're being checked for certain things as stated.
- Q. Now, Mr. Derenda, you're aware that the complaint in this case alleges that checkpoints were predominantly on the East Side between 2013 and the conclusion of the program in 2017, correct?
- A. I believe that to be correct.
- Q. Are you aware of any information that disproves the allegation that checkpoints were predominantly on the East Side during the period of the Strike Force's operation of that checkpoint?
- A. I'm not aware of the actual breakdown of where the checkpoints were and what percentage, so

constitutionality of the checkpoint program following the release of this article?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. My belief the way we operated the checkpoints was within constitutional requirements. That is my belief.
- Q. Rebecca, can you repeat my question?

(Record read back by reporter.)

11 A. I do not.

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Q. It's a yes or no question.

Now, are you aware that it's been alleged that the checkpoint program disproportionately impacted Black motorists?

- A. I believe that to be the basis, yes.
- Q. Has the Buffalo Police Department ever conducted any evaluations on the impact of the Strike Force checkpoint program on Black residents in Buffalo?
- A. They have not.
 - Q. And that includes since the lawsuit has been filed?

- A. They have not.
- Q. Has the Buffalo Police Department ever conducted any evaluations on the impact of the Strike Force checkpoint program on Latino residents of Buffalo?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Hold on. Note my objection to the last two questions. I'm objecting to the form of the question, but go ahead.

A. No.

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- Q. And that includes since this lawsuit was filed, correct?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. Has the City of Buffalo ever conducted any -why hasn't the City of Buffalo conducted
 either of those studies?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form. Go ahead.

- A. Because the Buffalo Police do not and did not base traffic enforcement, any enforcement on race so, therefore, we did not conduct any study.
- Q. Did you conduct any -- I'm sorry. When you

-DANIEL DERENDA

state that you did not base practices on race, what is the basis for that testimony?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection. Go ahead.

A. We don't -- we follow the law. Officers give tickets based on infractions, make arrests based on infractions. There was no study conducted. I spoke to corporation counsel. I spoke to current police staff.

There has been nothing since I left and we believe that they can do whatever -- the officers do what they need to do with each situation and if there was a complaint it would be or should be filed with Internal Affairs and any individual cases would be investigated, but I do not believe the Buffalo Police Department did or currently do any enforcement based on anybody's race.

- Q. And to that end, you did not study the racial impact or the impacts of your policing practices by race on the citizens of Buffalo?
- A. We did not do any study on impact, correct.
- Q. So sitting here today, there is nothing you can point to -- strike that.

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-DANIEL DERENDA

So sitting here today, there is no studies that the Buffalo Police Department have done to dispel the allegations or to disapprove the allegation that Black motorists in the City of Buffalo were stopped in checkpoints more frequently than White motorists?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection to form.

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. There have been no studies done.
- Q. Now, has the Buffalo Police Department since
 2013 conducted any studies regarding the
 racial impact of the Buffalo Police
 Department's traffic enforcement practices,
 setting aside the issue of checkpoints?
- A. Not that I'm aware of.
- Q. Has the City of Buffalo conducted or commissioned any studies regarding the racial impacts of the Buffalo Police Department's towing practices on the City of Buffalo?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection to form.

- A. Not that I'm aware of.
- Q. Has the City of Buffalo since 2013

commissioned any studies regarding the impact of the Buffalo Police Department's tinted window ticketing practices of racial minorities in Buffalo?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection to form.

A. Not that I'm aware of.

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Q. Are you aware that there is an allegation in this case that the Buffalo Police Department's tinted window ticketing practices disproportionately and negatively impacted racial minorities?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. I'm not aware of that being one of the complaints.
- Q. Do you know why the City of Buffalo has never conducted any studies regarding the racial impacts of its target enforcement practices in the City of Buffalo?
- A. I'll make the assumption --
 - MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Hold on. Objection to form. Go ahead.
- A. I'll make the assumption no studies were done because, as I said, Buffalo police do not and

-DANIEL DERENDA

did not enforce any laws based on race. If you give somebody a ticket no matter what color they are and they can't afford to pay it should the officer not give them the ticket because they can't afford to pay it, although the violation happened?

Again, the officers do not and I don't believe they ever did give tickets out based on race and/or make arrests on race so, therefore, there has not been a study that I'm aware of and there currently is no study in process.

Q. And I note that you said you were assuming and so I assume you don't know the reason why the City of Buffalo or the Buffalo Police

Department has conducted no studies?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: I object. Go ahead.

- A. Speaking with corporation counsel the reason being is that officers did not and do not enforce the law based on race and there were no studies done and there currently are no studies being done.
- Q. So if every single traffic ticket the City of

Q. Okay. Now, Mr. Derenda, there's an allegation in this case that Strike Force and Housing
Unit officers at times were issuing multiple tickets to motorists at a single stop.

Are you aware of that?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Including multiple tinted window tickets?
- A. I am aware.
 - Q. And you're aware that Strike Force and Housing
 Unit officers at times did issue multiple
 tickets at a single stop?
- A. Probably issued multiple tickets numerous times at stops.
 - Q. And you're aware that Strike Force and Housing
 Unit officers on numerous occasions issued
 multiple tinted windows tickets at a single
 stop?
- A. Yes.
- Q. That was -- when officers engaged in that conduct they did so with your permission?

 MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection to form.

 Go ahead.
 - A. When I found out that they were issuing

-DANIEL DERENDA

multiple tickets for multiple windows the policy was put in place that it was to stop. Speaking to current Commissioner Gramaglia he today still maintains that policy.

However, under Vehicle and Traffic Law it is permissible to write multiple tickets for multiple windows and as far as multiple tickets go, if you read the directive, the checkpoint directive, they're to write everything that they see coming through the checkpoints, so multiple tickets were probably written almost every time and it is their prerogative.

Other than the checkpoint, it was not their prerogative. They would have to write every ticket, but on traffic stops it's the prerogative of how many tickets they write, if they want to write one ticket, if there's multiple violations, it's left to the discretion of the officers.

Q. Is your testimony that you took steps while
you were commissioner to remove the discretion
that officers otherwise enjoyed as to how many

traffic tickets they would issue?

A. We never --

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection to form. Go ahead.

A. We never removed the discretion. The discretion is their discretion. There was no discretion, as I said, on the checkpoints.

They were to tag everything they see so that everybody coming through that checkpoint would be treated the same, but they have discretion on how many tickets they write on other cases, but what we did say was we did not want any more tickets for multiple windows and that was when I was there and I spoke to Gramaglia and he still maintains that position.

However, as I stated, V&T allows them to write multiple tickets for multiple windows and, again, currently today it is their discretion on traffic stops how many tickets they write for violations. It's a discretion they still have and they had under my command.

Q. And today they still have that discretion with respect to tinted window tickets?

-DANIEL DERENDA

A. No. Commissioner Gramaglia maintained a policy that I put in place that they were to issue one ticket because the fact of the matter is it would go to the court and the judge would throw out the tickets other than one anyway, but still, to me, what part of the Strike Force they were just putting numbers so they could put it on a report and that wasn't the purpose of the report, just to pad their numbers and say they were doing more than they were actually doing.

So you had four tickets for a tinted window and in my opinion it should be one, but as I stated, under V&T traffic law it is permissible for them to write for each window. I just didn't like that.

- Q. You stated -- so your testimony is today that you prohibit the practice of issuing multiple tinted windows tickets?
- A. We put out a policy telling them to stop.
- Q. What form did that policy take?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Form.

A. It would have probably have been a directive

to the chiefs, some kind of directive to the chiefs that we did not want them writing multiple tickets for windows and as I spoke to -- as I said, I spoke to Gramaglia in preparation for this and he maintains that same policy.

- Q. Was that a policy that you believe appeared in writing?
- A. It should have.

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Form.

A. Somewhere.

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- 12 Q. Did you issue --
 - A. I don't recall exactly whether it was in email form. I don't recall, but I wanted the practice to stop.
 - Q. Would you have communicated -- strike that.

Is your expectation that captains on the Strike Force and Housing Unit would be versed in this policy once you created it?

A. It would have gone to the chiefs, the chief of the unit, at that time Young. It probably was Young, but could have been Brinkworth but, again, we wanted the policy to stop.

We wanted them to stop as policy to write multiple tickets for windows. Not multiple tickets overall. That discretion they retained other than on traffic checkpoints where they had no discretion but to issue all tickets that they see.

- Q. And so to clarify, in the first instance did your policy suspending the issuance of multiple tinted windows tickets apply to checkpoint stops?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. So at checkpoint stops notwithstanding the policy you just described of officers needing to write every violation they saw, as many tickets as there were violations, that did not -- that ceased to apply to tinted windows tickets at some period of time?
- A. Correct. We wanted them to write one ticket, not four tickets or whatever they were writing. We found out about it from parking -- not from the parking, but the traffic bureau that they were doing that. We were unaware of that and we told them to stop.

Q. Did your policy authorize officers to write two tinted windows tickets per stop?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection to form.

- A. We told them to write one ticket for tinted windows is what I believe the policy was. We didn't -- again, you go back to V&T law. They can do that. We did not want them to do that and we had told the chief and the chiefs that the process needs -- that that needs to stop.
- Q. And were the chiefs supposed to be enforcing the policy of writing a single tinted window ticket per stop?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Form.

- A. Yes.
 - Q. Would that include Chief Young?
- 16 A. Yes.

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- Q. Then Deputy Commissioner Byron Lockwood, was he made aware of the policy of your new quidance concerning tinted windows tickets?
- A. Yes, he would have been.
- Q. Would you have expected him to enforce the policy within the Department?
- 23 A. He wasn't the direct oversight for the Strike

-- DANIEL DERENDA -

Force. The chief that was his unit, if it was happening in Strike Force or Housing it should have been Chief Young's job to stop it, not Lockwood's unless he came up to Lockwood and he found out about it. Then he would stop it.

And again, I don't recall the timeframe of when that took place or when we found out about the date and timeframe, but when we did find out about it we wanted it to stop.

It made no sense in my opinion to write four tickets for tinted windows. I believe one should have been written.

- Q. When did you adopt this policy calling for the issuance of a single tinted windows ticket per traffic stop?
- A. As I just stated, I don't recall the timeframe.
- Q. Do you think you adopted that policy as of 2017?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Form.

A. Well, maybe I found out about it so at some point obviously no later than '17 because I was gone in '18 and the unit was disbanded,

-DANIEL DERENDA

but yeah, maybe sometime in '17, maybe sometime earlier.

I don't recall when I found out about it, but we found out about it from Traffic Violations Bureau got a phone call saying what was going on and we wanted it to stop and we told the chiefs to make sure it was stopped.

- Q. Did you ever check to see if your directive was being followed?
- A. You make the assumption the chiefs are doing what they're ordered to do unless I find out different, so I give somebody an order to do something or a policy and they don't do it and I find out about it, they have a problem and they probably wouldn't be a chief anymore if they're not following my orders, so you have to make the assumption, you have to trust your people to do what they're being told, so we'll make the assumption that they were doing what they were being told unless I find out different.
- Q. I'd like to mark as what I believe is

 Exhibit 28 a document I have provided in

discovery as COB 016263. It is an email that was sent by Captain Phillip Serafini of the Strike Force/Housing Unit to a number of BPD recipients including Chief Young and Deputy Police Commissioner Lockwood.

Do you see that?

A. Correct.

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Q. It begins, Lieutenant, I met with Chief Young today and he had a meeting with BPD Lockwood outlining our new Strike Force focus and overtime details", and it proceeds and the email proceeds from there.

Do you see that?

- A. T do.
 - Q. In this first paragraph following the colon do you see that it is describing a new policy on tinted windows tickets?
 - A. I do.
 - Q. Do you see that it says that instead of issuing six separate traffic summonses for window tints that two tint summonses per motorists is enough?
 - A. I see that.

-DANIEL DERENDA

- Q. Is that consistent with the policy directives that you --
- A. My best recollection is I said they should be issuing one ticker per tinted window violation regardless of if there were six windows tinted.
- Q. So this directive that Captain Serafini gave to the Strike Force to issue up to two summonses was not consistent with your policy as stated, correct?
- A. It is my belief it should have stated one tint summons per motorist is enough.
- Q. Now, did you ever check with Chief Young or anyone else in the supervisory command of the Strike Force to ensure that your policy of just a single summons was being followed?
- A. I don't recall if I did or I didn't, but I know we were no longer getting complaints from the Traffic Violations Bureau.
- Q. In your opinion, should Chief Young have corrected Captain Serafini and indicated that the Department's new policy was in fact to issue only one ticket per tinted window

summons?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. It should have been corrected. Obviously I did not see this email, nor was I -- I don't ever recall seeing this email or was I at their meeting, so I don't know how it came out of one.
- Q. Okay.
- A. But again, let me go back and state under

 Vehicle and Traffic Law it is permissible for

 them to write six tickets for every window,

 but again, I don't believe that should be the

 policy and I believe our policy as stated is

 the one ticket is what I wanted.
- Q. Why did you believe that officers should not or should cease the practice of issuing six tickets per window?
- A. Because getting calls from the Traffic

 Violations Bureau they were dumping them down
 to one ticket anyway and to me it kind of
 aggravated me that when I'm looking for
 numbers of really what they're doing and
 they're writing, so they're saying they're

-DANIEL DERENDA

writing six tickets but in my mind it's one violation. It should have been one ticket. That is my belief. That's what I wanted.

- Q. And I believe you stated that you had an understanding of why officers wrote multiple tinted windows tickets per stop?
- A. Yes. I think they were trying to pad their numbers to make it look like they were doing more than what they were actually doing.
- Q. What does that mean exactly?
- A. They know we check the numbers and, again, what gets measured gets done, so when they're writing six tickets when really in my mind it's only one violation, they're really writing one ticket but overstating the number of tickets they're writing.

They all got thrown out. They were reduced down to one. In some cases they might have been reduced, period. I don't know, but it made no sense in my mind for them to be writing six tickets when they should have been in my mind writing one.

Q. Why did officers find it an incentive to pad

their numbers?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Form.

A. So they didn't hear from me saying they're not doing enough? Again, my saying was what gets measured gets done. I would look at numbers.

I wanted to be proactive. I wanted them to be productive.

I wanted them to be out there doing their job and, again, those numbers weren't realistic to me. It should have been one. If it was one case it should have been one, not six.

Q. Mr. Derenda, are you aware that since 2012 there has never been a time where the BPD -- strike that.

Are you aware that from 2013 to 2017 there was never a period where the Buffalo Police Department's average number of tinted windows tickets per incident averaged less than one and a half tickets?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

- A. I'm not aware of that.
- Q. I'd like to mark as Exhibit 29, unless the

numbers are off, a document that technically was used once already. It was marked as Exhibit 20 in your November, 2021 deposition and it is a compilation based on City data of the average tinted windows tickets per incident by month issued by the Department or officers of the Department.

Do you see that?

A. The dates?

- Q. The dates are on the bottom. It's year and then month and it's skipping every two months.
- A. So '07, '11, '19, '18. Again, average ticket windows, the numbers are the numbers, but those numbers would be skewed if somebody is writing six until they were stopped and then they would be writing one and then in this case maybe two, but the numbers would be higher because they were writing multiple tickets for one window for the windows. That would be my explanation for that.
- Q. You left the Department as of -- prior to March, 2019, correct?
- A. Correct.

Q. So is it fair to say that during your tenure as commissioner your policy of having officers write a single tinted window per ticket was not complied with?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection as to form.

A. I left the Department in January, 2018. So let's look at the '17 numbers. Did they come down? Apparently they did, but again, the numbers would be skewed if somebody was writing more.

So can you make it a little bigger because I'm having trouble seeing the bottom, the dates.

Q. Sure.

- A. So '17. The numbers went up after I left in '18.
 - Q. Are you aware of any instances where officers have been subject to discipline for violating what you've described as the Department's policy that now requires only a single tinted window ticket per incident?

MR. SAHASRABUDHE: Objection to form.

A. I don't recall any cases. I'm not saying

1 STATE OF NEW YORK) 2 COUNTY OF ERIE 3 4 I, Rebecca Lynne DiBello, CSR, RPR, Notary 5 Public, in and for the County of Erie, State of New York, do hereby certify: 6 7 That the witness whose testimony appears hereinbefore was, before the commencement of 8 their testimony, duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth; that said testimony was taken pursuant 9 to notice at the time and place as herein set forth; that said testimony was taken down by me and thereafter transcribed into typewriting, 10 and I hereby certify the foregoing testimony is 11 a full, true and correct transcription of my shorthand notes so taken. 12 13 I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor related to any party to said action, 14 nor in anyway interested in the outcome 15 thereof. 16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto 17 subscribed my name and affixed my seal this 30th day of January, 2024. 18 un I. D. Bello 19 20 21 Rebecca Lynne DiBello, CSR (NY) Notary Public - State of New York 22 No. 01D14897420 Qualified in Erie County 23 My commission expires 5/11/2027